



HOPE
Delaware's Youth Advisory Council Bylaws
"Helping Our Peers Evolve"

Article I – NAME

Section I: The name of this organization shall be the Delaware Transitional and Independent Living Youth Advisory Council, commonly referred to as Youth Advisory Council, herein after referred to as HOPE.

Article II – PURPOSE

Section I: HOPE is a group for youth and young adults that have experienced Delaware foster care to advocate and promote for legislative change within the foster care system. HOPE will encourage youth to develop leadership skills and other tools needed for self-sufficiency. The purpose of HOPE will be achieved through:

- a) Empowering youth to have a positive impact in their communities
- b) Building relationships, partnerships, and networking opportunities
- c) Participating in regular council meetings
- d) Selecting HOPE officers and other youth leaders for representation
- e) Developing skills for independent living and leadership
- f) Activities, trainings, and community events
- g) Supporting officers and other youth leaders to represent HOPE

Article III – PARTICIPATION

Section I: HOPE is comprised of current and former foster youth, between the ages of 14-23.

Section II: Youth participation consists of:

- a) Engaging with peers and other professionals through group sharing, activities, and open discussions
- b) Providing input that would lead to improvements and positive outcomes in the foster care system
- c) Progressing towards the betterment of the foster care experience

Article IV – RULES OF HOPE

Section I: Participants agree to respect others and to follow all rules and regulations established in the bylaws by:



- a) HOPE participants will not speak over each other, use abusive or inappropriate language and/or conversations
- b) Do not enter anyone's personal space
- c) Be considerate when using your phone or other devices
- d) Remain in the meeting space unless you have made a staff person aware
- e) Participants must clean up their space during and at the close of the meeting
- f) Anything discussed in the HOPE meeting will remain confidential
- g) Participants will attempt to resolve all disagreements with their peers, if unable to, a staff person will assist

Article V- Officers

Section I:

1. The executive board will consist of 3 elected officers: President, Vice President and Secretary.
2. HOPE may also have County Leaders that will assist with meetings or events.
3. In the event that there are no elected officers or County Leaders, youth or young adults can volunteer or be selected to lead a component of the meeting.

Section II:

1. Term of Elected Officer:
 - a) Term of office shall be a minimum of One (1) month or can be up to One (1) year
 - b) A full elected term is One (1) year
 - c) Positions will be on a volunteer basis unless multiple youth want to run for the same position, in which an election will be held
2. Term of County Leader:
 - a) Term of office shall be a minimum of One (1) month or can be up to One (1) year
 - b) Positions will be on a volunteer basis unless multiple youth want to run for the same position, in which an election will be held
3. Term of Volunteer Leader:
 - a) Volunteer Leader will serve for the current month's meeting or event
 - b) A Volunteer Leader may continue to serve if there are no elected officers or County Leaders

Section III: Duties of Officers

In-person attendance is required for the month you are serving in your position

1. The President will:
 - a. Announce the opening of the meeting and welcome everyone
 - b. Review the agenda and the purpose and rules of HOPE to attendees
 - c. Announce any important information regarding HOPE, such as voting results, upcoming events, and decisions
 - d. Act as the liaison between officers, leaders, and professionals to coordinate and plan for meetings



2. The Vice President will:
 - a. Facilitate the meeting by:
 - i. Keeping track of time for items on agenda and introduce each activity
 - ii. Reinforcing the rules throughout the meeting in-person and virtually
 - iii. Acting as a co-host for virtual meetings
3. The Secretary will:
 - a. Ensure that everyone signs in at the beginning of the meeting and tracks attendance virtually
 - b. Work with officers and professionals to create a meeting agenda
 - c. Provide content for HOPE Instagram page and website at least one post per month
 - d. Take meeting notes and share with a designated professional at the end of meeting
 - e. Distribute any necessary materials during meeting
4. County Leaders will:
 - a. Assist professionals with organizing meetings
 - b. Serve as the contact person during meetings
 - c. Make sure that everyone signs in on the attendance sheet